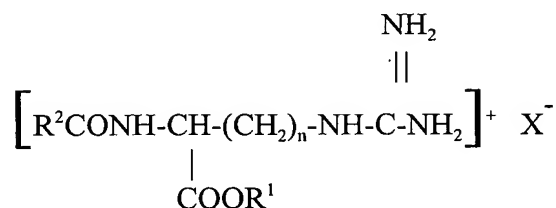


## Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A stable antiplaque oral composition comprising an aqueous vehicle containing a safe and effective amount of an antibacterial arginine derivative compound represented by the



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is an alkyl chain of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, and R<sup>2</sup> is an alkyl chain of 6 to 30 carbon atoms and X is an anion,; and, a silica compound, the silica compound having been precoated with an ethoxylated hydrogenated castor oil.

2. The composition of claim 1 wherein n = 3.
3. The composition according to claim 1 wherein the concentration of the arginine derivative compound is present in the oral composition at a concentration of about 0.02% to 2% by weight.
4. The composition according to claim 1 wherein the antibacterial arginine derivative compound is ethyl lauroyl arginine hydrochloride.
5. The composition of claim 1 wherein the silica compound is a silica abrasive.
6. The composition of claim 1 wherein the silica compound is a silica thickener.
7. The composition of claim 1 wherein the silica compound is precoated with an ethoxylated hydrogenated castor oil at a weight ratio of castor oil to silica of 1:10 to 1:2.